

Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



www.egara.club

February 2019

President - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP
Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Vice-President - Nick Field, KD2JCR
Treasurer, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ
Board Members: David Jaegar, Jr., K2DEJ - Russ Greenman, WB2LCX - Dave Gillette, KC2RPU

Government Shutdown Makes Licensing a “Hurry Up and Wait” Affair

The partial shutdown of the federal government affected several agencies, including the FCC -- meaning it wasn't processing any license applications during the stalemate. For test applicants attending EGARA's January 5th exam session that meant having to wait to get their new licenses. While the Universal Licensing System (ULS) continued to accept applications for all valid purposes, the shut down meant the FCC halted review or action on them during the funding stalemate.

It included Volunteer Examiner Coordinator test session batch files as well as modification, renewal, and vanity call sign applications filed by individual licensees. License upgrades were also put on hold. As of late January, tests given at over 150 VE exam sessions across the nation remained unprocessed by the FCC

For Robert Davies of Catskill, who passed both his Tech and General exams at the January 5th exam session, it meant having to stay off the air until his license approvals appeared in the FCC database. But Mark Bennett of Pittsfield, who upgraded to a General ticket, was able to exercise his new privileges immediately by temporarily adding the “AG” suffix to his call sign, KD4UBU, until the FCC reopened for business. Meanwhile, hams who are facing license expiration can file for renewal and continue operating.

However, Davies' frustration was eased a bit when the EGARA awarded him a brand new Kenwood dual band mobile radio. For the past several VE exam sessions, the club has raffled off a new rig for free to one lucky applicant who passes their Technician exam in an effort to help them get on the air quickly. In addition, the club has provided a free “New Ham Kit” to help get newly licensed Amateurs on the air. The kit provides operating guidelines and tips, as well as technical information on repeaters and their use.



Robert Davies (L) was given a new mobile rig after passing his Tech and General exams. But getting on the air was delayed by the government shutdown which also closed the FCC

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“We’ve been fortunate to receive several donations of used equipment which we are able refurbish and sell,” said EGARA President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. “The proceeds let us purchase new radios that we can give to a new Tech to help get them on the air quickly.”

Club VEs administering the January 5th session included Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP; Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL; Dave Williams, N2VLQ; Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU; Steve Vansickle, WB2HPR; Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ; and, Bill Leue, K2WML.

The club's next regular VE exam session is slated for May.

EGARA Meeting - February 13th @ 7 pm

EGARA Hamfest 2019 Prep Begins

Springtime likely seems far away, but the club's annual Hamfest in May will be here before we know it -- and that means preparations are already underway.

This year, Hamfest will be held on Saturday, May 11th and the club has already reserved the pavilion at the East Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department on Phillips Road. In addition, outreach has begun to potential vendors such as KJI Electronics, which has traditionally attended the event for many years. Amateur Radio equipment manufacturers and suppliers are also being contacted to explore their interest in being Hamfest sponsors. Last year the club was fortunate to have several vendors donate radios and accessories in return for promotion at the Hamfest, as well as on the club's website and newsletter.

Hamfest Contacts.xlsx							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
118	12094	Rusack	Jeff	N2CSO		Johnsonville	NY
119	12205	Sisno	Michael	KD2YWR	seve@gmail.com	Albany	NY
120	01540	Plasse	Jerry	W1HJC	w1ha@comcast.net	Oxford	MA
121	12184	Jonas	Dana	WA2WNI	wa2wni@comcast.net	Valatie	NY
122	12302	Zuraven	Larry	KB2WZT	kb2wzt@gmail.com	Schenectady	NY
123	01201	Bissailow	Adrian	KA1OKP	adrian@ka1okp.com	Pittsfield	MA
124	12188	Dahoda	Paul	KD2JMM	kd2jmm@gmail.com	Waterford	NY
125	12498	Bloom	Bob	WA2ZNU	wa2znu@earthlink.net	Woodstock	NY
126	12189	Squillace	Joe	KC2HLC	kc2hlc@gmail.com	Watervliet	NY
127	12074	Curtis	Chris	W2CCR	w2ccr@comcast.net	Galway	NY
128	12066	Somers	Gene	N2WIG	n2wig@gmail.com	Esperance	NY
129	12205	McAvoy	Shaun	KD2OVH	kd2ovh@yahoo.com	Albany	NY
130	12309	Moody	Tim	W2QAC	w2qac@yahoo.com	Schenectady	NY
131	12056	DeSantis	Matt	KD2WQX	kd2wqx@gmail.com	Dunkirk	NY

The club's newly created database includes email addresses which will assist with marketing this year's Hamfest

To aid in marketing Hamfest 2019, the club has created a database that includes email addresses for many of those who attended last year. The data will allow for email announcements to go out with reminders and information about the event, including updates on vendors and the many prizes that will be offered.

"Our goal is to make this year's Hamfest even better," said club President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. "We do it by reviewing our notes from last year's event and building upon our success. We look to enhance what worked well and make improvements where they're needed. But overall, the feedback we get every year is very positive and our reputation is that we put on a great Hamfest every year."

This year, the club is also working on plans to expand its prize offerings. "Hopefully, we'll have some nice surprises to announce," Tom said. "And, if the weather cooperates, I expect we'll see a nice jump in attendance."



Hamfest 2018 saw a good turnout despite chilly weather

Mark Your Calendar!

EGARA Hamfest 2019 - May 11th

Ten New Year Resolutions for Hams

By John Bee, N1GNV

Editor's note: During the recent holiday season, John Bee, the owner of Quicksilver Radio Products (www.qsradio.com), sent a thank you out to his many customers, along with some New Year resolutions for Amateur Radio operators to consider. John has graciously given Sidebands permission to re-print the following excerpt from his note.

As 2018 slid into 2019, it's natural to think about plans for the coming year. And I'd like to ask a favor of you -- please put Ham Radio on your list of New Year's Resolutions. Here are some ideas to consider:

Resolution #1: Get Your License or Upgrade. If, by chance, you are not yet a licensed Ham Radio Operator, get your license this year. If you have not yet passed your General or Extra test, do it this year. Having trouble studying or passing? I have some tips on my Web Site that I think will be helpful. See them at this link: <https://qsradio.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a5a6e8e950aa932d51c345073&id=ec4a23d9b7&e=4311ca7d03>.

Resolution #2: Try Something New. A good friend of mine likes to say that there are 30 different kinds of Ham Radio, and there's something there for everyone. FM repeaters and HF SSB just scratch the surface. You already have a computer. New digital and sound card modes seem to appear weekly. A short while ago, no one had heard of FT-8. It's now, by many accounts, the most popular HF Digital mode. D-Star, DMR, Fusion, and other digital voice modes are growing by leaps and bounds. Have you tried 6 Meters yet? The Magic Band can yield some surprising contacts. How low can you go? There's some interesting action on our newest bands at 630 and 2200 Meters. At (literally) the other end of the spectrum, we have Ham Bands well into the GHz region. Microwaves are useful for more than making popcorn! Or maybe try some SSB or CW on 2 Meters or 70 Centimeters? Every Ham has full privileges on all of the bands above 30 MHz. Antennas for VHF and UHF are small and easy to construct from hardware store parts. It doesn't have to be pretty -- an ugly antenna will radiate just as well. Use your imagination and try something different!

Resolution #3: Set Goals. Set an achievable Ham Radio goal for the year -- and then work at it! Earn DXCC or WAS, maybe on a single band? Better your contest score by 10%? Get your CW speed up to 20 WPM? Reorganize and rewire the shack? Order a copy of the ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book, and start increasing your technical knowledge? Convert your paper logs to electronic format and start using Logbook of the World? One of my father's favorite sayings was "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." Just do it!!

Resolution #4: Build something. Too many years ago, as I newly licensed Ham I got very involved in Packet Radio. With a double throw switch and some mic connectors, I built a box to allow either voice or data use by just flipping the switch. OK, not exactly cutting edge, but it worked and led me to build plenty of other handy gadgets over the years. Simple projects can also be a great way to teach new hams the basics of soldering and kit-building. String up that antenna you've been thinking about forever and see how it plays. Download a free antenna modeling program and learn how to use it to design and build your own BandBlaster. Order a kit and assemble it. Melt some solder and have fun! Once you start you'll be hooked.

Resolution #5: Learn Something. Microcontrollers like the Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and PICaxe are quite inexpensive. With a few LEDs and pushbuttons you can learn simple programming to get started. There are plenty of useful Ham Radio projects that you can find online. And if you have an idea for your own gadget, you'll have a lot of fun learning how to roll your own computer code.

Resolution #6: Teach Something. You know how to do things others don't, but would like to learn. Are you already familiar with programming microcontrollers? How about a club project to teach the basics to other members? Or a demonstration on using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors?

-continued on page 6-

Make Ham Radio a Habit

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Every week, I get an email newsletter from Penguin Random House called Signature. Signature includes links to articles about books and writing. Being a writer, I clicked on the link to "5 Good Writing Habits You Need to Learn Now." As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the advice could also apply to amateur radio.

So, with apologies to the author, Lorraine Berry, here are five things you can do to make ham radio a habit:

1. To get on the air more, or to do more building, set up a time to do it. If you enjoy getting on the air or homebrewing, but never seem to be able to find the time to do it, you need to put it on your schedule. Set aside the time a couple of days, or a week, or even a month in advance, and you'll be more likely to do it. If you set up a regular time every week, pretty soon it will be a habit.

2. If ham radio is important to you, create an environment that encourages you to do ham radio. To make ham radio a habit, you really need a place that's set up to do ham radio. If you have to dig out and set up your equipment every time that you want to get on the air, you're just not going to do it. You need a "shack" that makes it easier for you to engage in the hobby. Richards, K8JHR, gave me some great advice back in 2012 on where and how to set up a shack (<https://www.kb6nu.com/building-a-new-shack/>).

*To get on the air more,
set up a regular time
to do it.*

3. Create temptations that reward you for your new habit of ham radio. For me, being able to make interesting contacts, or building some new gizmo, is reward enough, but you may want to reward yourself with a beer or some ice cream after an operating session.

4. Make it easy to do what you like to do. This is related to #4. Your shack should have everything you need to easily do whatever ham radio activities you enjoy doing. If you enjoy operating, then it should have a nice operating desk. If you enjoy building, then set it up so that all of your tools are readily accessible. The easier it is to do, the more likely it is that you'll do it. If you enjoy operating portable, then build up a kit that has all the stuff you need, and have it ready to go when you're ready to go.

5. Start with the Two-Minute Rule for new habits and continue from there. The "two minute rule" (<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/how-stop-procrastinating-and-stick-good-habits-using-the-2-minute-rule.html>) is a tool to help you overcome procrastination. The idea is to allot just two minutes to a task that you'd like to complete or a skill that you'd like to develop. It's a small commitment, but enough to get you started, and the idea is that once you're started on a particular task or project, continuing work on that task or project becomes a lot easier. Those two minutes could easily become a half hour or an hour once you've gotten the ball rolling.

Armed with this advice, I'm expecting you to be a more active ham in 2019. I'll be listening for you on 40m.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). His wife sometimes thinks that amateur radio has become too much of a habit for him.

Need an Antenna? Build Your Own!

Your ham radio skill set may not include building your own 80 meter beam, but when it comes to VHF and UHF antennas, it's a project almost any Amateur can handle using just a few simple tools, some wire and inexpensive connectors. And, during the January EGARA meeting, several members took advantage of the club's annual antenna workshop to construct their own quarter-wave 2 meter ground plane antennas to use with their HT rigs.

The design and build is extremely simple and can be accomplished in well under an hour. Your finished antenna will run circles around the standard "rubber ducky" that ships with most hand-held portables. These instructions will help you build your own with a minimum of time and effort.

First, you need to decide what band you want your antenna to work on -- 2 meters (144 mhz), 1.25 cm (222 mhz), or 70 cm (440 mhz). Then you need to cut the antenna elements to the correct length for that band, as shown below in the diagram from the ARRL Antenna Book (Figure 32). Brass welding rod or #10 or #12 copper wire work well.

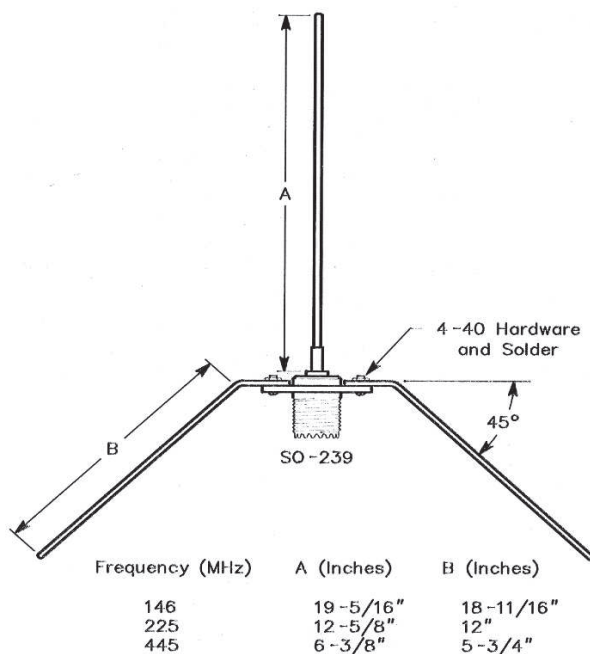
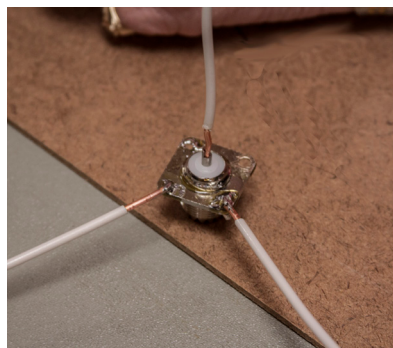


Fig 32—Simple ground-plane antenna for the 144-, 222- and 440-MHz bands. The vertical element and radials are $\frac{3}{32}$ - or $\frac{1}{16}$ -in. brass welding rod. Although $\frac{3}{32}$ -in. rod is preferred for the 144-MHz antenna, #10 or #12 copper wire can also be used.

The SO-239 connector with the vertical radiator and two of the four radials soldered in place



For example, for an antenna that is designed to resonate in the middle of the 2 meter band, or 146 mhz, you would cut a piece of wire 19 5/16 inches for the vertical radiator (shown as "A"). Then you would cut four pieces of wire to a length of 18 11/16 inches for the ground plane radials (shows as "B").

Attach piece "A" to the center of a standard SO-239 socket with solder. Then attached the four "B" radials to the mounting holes on the SO-239 using machine screws or solder. Once attached, the radials should be bent downward to a 45 degree angle.

The final step is to wire the feedline that will run from the antenna to your radio, using a PL-259 plug at the antenna and the appropriate connector to fit your radio's RF output port (SMA, BNC, etc.).

To complete the project, you may wish to place the antenna on a piece of PVC pipe for support and elevation. The SO-239 base can fit snugly inside the pipe and the feedline can be brought out through a notch cut into the pipe that's big enough to pass the connector to the radio, but small enough to maintain the rigidity of the pipe.

The construction for other bands is exactly the same, with the only difference being the length of the radiator and the radials cut to the frequency specifications of the band, as shown in the diagram.

The 2 meter antennas built during the January workshop were all tested and found to have excellent performance with low SWR, comparable to commercial units costing as much as \$50 or more.

EGARA January Meeting Minutes

- The January meeting of the EGARA was called to order at 7:25 PM by President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. The Treasurers report was presented by Treasurer Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ and approved by the membership. Dues were accepted, and can also be paid online using PayPal. Several members utilized their accrued 2018 points to offset the cost of dues. Attendees are reminded to sign the attendance roster to receive credit for rewards. Tickets were drawn and prizes awarded in the monthly raffle: a variety of tools, an ARRL tote bag, and an ARRL calendar donated by Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU.
- Bryan distributed samples of the EGARA Special Event QSL cards. A special event station is being contemplated for the spring hamfest. The Hoosick Falls ARA will hold a hamfest on February 2nd. Also, the Helderbergs repeater installation is on hold until spring. There are no changes being planned at this time for the .270 repeater site in Albany.
- At the last VE session, January 5th, a newly minted ham was the recipient of a brand new Kenwood dual band mobile radio. The radio was made possible through the sale of used equipment at local hamfests. It is proposed that all new licensees who pass their exams at our VE sessions be offered a free one year EGARA membership. Due to the ongoing US government shutdown, the FCC will be unable to process amateur licenses.
- Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL, explained about a new ham radio VOIP telephone system. More information is at <https://hamshackhotline.com/>. Also, a website is available to increase CW proficiency through mentoring. See Ridge for details.
- Two new members were welcomed: Tom Woodson N4PXB and Zachary Bradt, KD2QZN.
- Following the formal meeting, several 2 meter ground plane antennas were constructed as a part of EGARA's annual antenna building project. The antennas are designed to be used at public service events or other temporary installations.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM. As customary, refreshments of coffee, soda, and pizza were provided.

-de Steve VanSickle, Secretary

John Bee: Ten New Year's Resolutions (continued from page 3)

Resolution #7: Become a "HAMbassador". Get just one person (or two, or three) interested in Amateur Radio. Offer to demonstrate Ham Radio at the Senior Citizens' center, Boy or Girl Scout meetings, the Rotary Club, or any similar organization. Groups like that are always looking for an interesting speaker or activity. A simple but impressive and effective demonstration is to bring an HT and ask for a "Roll Call". Notify your club in advance... all they need to do is reply with "This is (name, callsign) in (town)." Remember that we're Hams because we enjoy talking to other people. The more Hams, the more contacts we can make.

Resolution #8: Get Involved! Join your local Radio Club. If you already belong, attend the meetings. Just about every club (not just Radio Clubs) has the same problem -- 10% of the people do 90% of the work. You don't need to volunteer for everything... select an area that interests you, and help with that. Even better, suggest an activity and then take the lead in organizing it. Something as simple as "I'm going to set up a portable station at the park on Saturday morning, everyone is welcome to come by" can be a great time. If you add "Free coffee and donuts" to your announcement, you'll draw a real crowd ;-)

Resolution #9: Stay Positive, Ignore the Negative. Don't listen to the cranky old farts who insist that "Ham Radio is dying". Or better yet, point them here where they'll find that the number of licensees is at an all-time high. Participation in contests remains strong, even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Manufacturers continue to introduce new models that we could barely dream of just a few years ago. Hamfests that are well-organized and well-run are thriving. Ham Radio has been evolving for over a century now, and it continues to do so. The Magic of Radio never goes away.

Resolution #10: Enjoy. Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2019!

Once again, my sincere best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

On the Beam

News & Notes

Mailing of QSL Cards Puts Finishing Touch on Special Event Station

The final piece of EGARA's W2EGB Special Event Station was completed in January, with QSL cards being sent out to the contacts that requested them during the December 1st event which celebrated the club's 20th anniversary.

The QSL cards were designed by the club's newsletter editor, Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, and included a gold sticker on the front, marking the date of the Special Event Station -- December 1, 2018. Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, handled the contact confirmations and mailings, using the logs provided by members who participated.

During the Special Event station operations, a total of 160 contacts were made.

The club is now considering operating another Special Event Station during its annual Hamfest in May. The club ordered extra QSL cards to have on hand for future events.



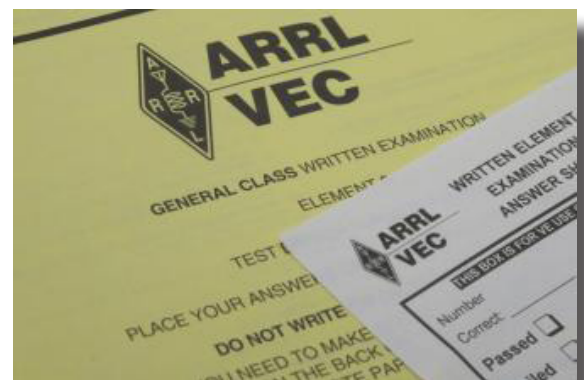
EGARA Secretary Steve VanSickle fills out contact information on the club's Special Event Station QSL cards



New General Class Exam Questions Released

The latest General-class Question Pool has been released and is now available for review and study by Technicians looking to upgrade. The new questions will appear on exams starting this July 1st.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee updates the Technician, General and Extra license exams every few years to reflect changes in technology, regulations and other issues affecting Amateur Radio.



The new pool of questions covers the FCC General Class Element 3. They will remain in effect until 2023.

For hams who wish to review the new questions, they are available in Word, ASCII text, and PDF versions at the following links:

Word version: <http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/2019-2023GeneralClassQuestionPool.docx>

Plain text (ASCII): <http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/2019-2023GeneralClassQuestionPool.txt>

PDF version: <http://www.ncvec.org/downloads/2019-2023GeneralClassQuestionPool.pdf>

The General Class Question Pool was last updated in June 2009.

The History of Ham Radio: The Relay's the Thing

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

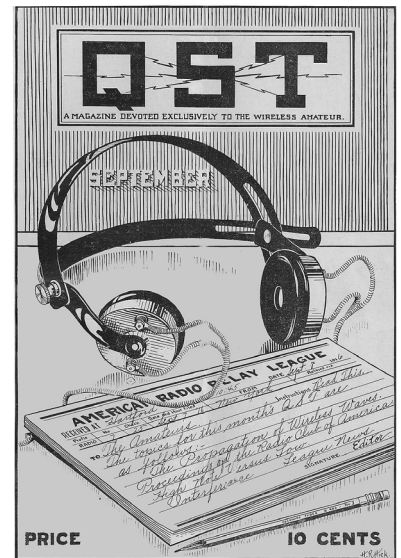
Whether for public service or as a challenge worth attacking, transmitting information across ever greater distances is what drove members of the Relay League to organize. The thrill of wireless communication was reinforced with each additional mile covered, even as signals became weaker. Relaying was an obvious way to extend range beyond the capability of one pair of stations in direct contact, and it required more than just knowing who was located where.

Urged by the first district Radio Inspector, the League directors produced a blueprint for relaying messages. Fittingly, it was published as the lead article of the inaugural issue of QST and consisted of five actions hams should take:

First, to make two-way contacts a little less random, hams should maintain regular hours for listening and make their presence known by transmitting a simple QST with their location and QRU (indicating readiness to receive messages).

Second, everyone should purchase a copy of the List of Stations (for 50¢), which contained information about each station. Besides the usual information about the operator and location, the book also contained:

... his transmitting power, what kind of a spark gap he has, how far he can send, the number of words per minute he can receive, his usual listening in time, what kind of a license he holds from the Government, and whether or not he has a telephone near at hand for delivering or receiving local messages.



The 1st issue of QST

Additions to the List were regularly published as addenda in QST.

Third, hams should get an Official League License. Issued only to League members, it could be had for just 50¢. They did not really explain why it was essential to effective message relaying, but did state that it was similar to the one the US Government issued and that "... you ought to order it at once so as to have it framed and hanging up in your operating room when the time comes that you want your station to look well." As a package, for only one dollar, you could get the List of Stations, the Official League License, and a pad of message forms. What a deal! (An ad on page 24 in the same issue offered the same package for only 50¢ if one responded by December 6th.)

Fourth on the blueprint list was to join the League, which was free. One only needed to fill in an application form and attest to having a working station capable of receiving "a message" (no mention of transmitting). Once again, applicants were "asked" to obtain the List of Stations and the license certificate. After name and address, the next most important piece of information on the two-page application form was the length and height of your aerial and the number of wires it had. Then came a section on "sending equipment" characteristics, in which it asked, "What tone has your spark?" with a single blank next to the question. It was well understood that this referred to the dominant tone of your signal, normally determined by the frequency with which sparks were made. You were then asked to name the five most distant stations you had communicated with and their distances. On the second page of the form was a space for listing your receiving equipment, with six lines devoted to a free form description followed by various other questions about your station and your own personal capabilities. Finally, just before the signature, the form asked you to affirm that, "I HEREBY OFFER TO RELAY OR DELIVER ANY AMATEUR RADIO MESSAGES THAT ARE SENT TO ME".

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EGARA Welcomes Three New Members!



Zach Bradt, KD2QZN (L) and Tom Woodson, N4PXB (R) joined the club at its January meeting. Zach is a new ham who received his Tech license in November. Tom holds a General class ticket.

Also joining the club is Frederick Carroll, AJ4CN, who is moving to East Greenbush from North Carolina in February. He holds an Amateur Extra ticket.

Please join in welcoming them all to EGARA!

Help Keep Our Records Up-To-Date



We do our best to keep our records correct, but we need your help to do it right. Please take time to e-mail us at: W2RBJ@Outlook.com with any changes such as:

- Email address changes;
- Mailing address changes;
- Call sign changes;
- If you join or drop membership in ARRL;
- License class changes;

We especially need to know if you change your email address so that we can continue to ensure you receive the club newsletter, as well as important information on club activities, meetings and events.

We also need to know if you are a member of ARRL. To maintain our standing as an officially sanctioned ARRL club, we are required to have at least 51% of our members also be members of the League. Remember too, if you let EGARA process your ARRL membership or your renewal, the club receives a portion of your dues at no additional cost to you!

Thanks for Your Support!

EGARA gratefully acknowledges each of the following members who have submitted their dues for 2019!

- Bob Stark - KA2EXK
- Claudia Stark - KC2VWO
- Bud Shepard - W2BUD
- Frederick Carroll - AJ4CN
- David Jaeger, Jr. - K2DEJ
- Adam Rieder - W1OAR
- Don Mayotte - KB2CDX
- Michael Sisno - KD2YWR
- Vincent Gizzi - KC2USV
- Ridge Macdonald - KB2HWL
- Tom Scorsone - KC2FCP
- Bryan Jackson - W2RBJ
- Tom Woodson - N4PXB
- Zach Bradt - KD2QZN
- Steve Marsh - KC2USX
- Deb Mariani - KC2ULU
- Judie Marsh - KC2SQL
- Bill Leue - K2WML
- Peggy Donnelly - KD2LMU
- Shelly Perry - WB2DGE
- Steve VanSickle - WB2HPR
- Paul Dahoda - KD2JMM
- Bob Stanley - W2RBS
- Nick Field - KD2JCR
- Dave Gillette - KC2RPU

Remember...

Paying Your Dues
Has Never Been Easier!

1. Pay at any club meeting;
2. Pay safely and securely online. Visit: www.EGARA.club/dues;
3. Pay by mail. Send your check payable to "EGARA" and mail to:

EGARA

c/o Bryan Jackson, Treasurer
983 Sterling Ridge Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Amateur Radio History: The Relay

The fifth and final item in the blueprint was to obtain a special license from the government so you could operate on 425 meters. These were available to operators who held a first grade commercial license and who were also recommended by the League. You could get a recommendation if you were located sufficiently far from the seacoast so as to not interfere with commercial and naval stations, and could successfully argue why you needed to use 425 meters to relay messages. Typical reasons had to do with the longer wavelength being capable of greater distances than on 200 meters and having a need for the increased range because of the remoteness of your station.

You would apply to the League, which would recommend you to the District Radio Inspector who then would send it to Washington where the Bureau of Navigation would take action. The ARRL had already established a close relationship with the government, which considered League credible enough to provide this vetting process for special licenses implied in the 1912 law, but not prescribed in detail.

The blueprint was meant to increase “reliability and celerity”—celerity meaning swiftness or speed—of the relay process. QST pointedly referred to amateur stations as relay stations to emphasize their special nature and participation in organized activity. The items of equipment in such stations were called instruments.

Cabin Fever? How About a Winter Hamfest?



The dark, cold days of winter can leave you longing for a reason to get out of the house -- so taking in a Hamfest in February would seem a perfect reason to shake off the doldrums. So head to the one being sponsored by the Hoosick Falls Amateur Radio Club!

The swapfest is set for Saturday, February 2nd and will once again be held at the Hoosick Falls Central School on Route 22 in Hoosick Falls from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Admission is just \$2.00 and kids under 16 are free. Vendor tables are \$5, so if you have gear to sell this is a perfect opportunity.

In addition to the swapfest, there will be raffles and door prizes. Refreshments will also be sold. Sponsors include: BaoFeng, Icom Radios, Kenwood, Gigaparts, Ham Radio Outlet, MFJ Electronics, CQ Magazine.

Directions from the Troy Area: Go East on RT-7 / Hoosick Street for 21.3 miles - Turn left onto RT-22 - 1.6 miles arrive at the Hoosick Falls Central school on the left. Talk in will be on 146.655 (K2FCR) 100.0 PL Tone

For more information email hoosickfallshams@yahoo.com. The club also has a Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/hoosickfallshams/>.

February: This Month in Radio History



February 1, 1942: The Voice of America was introduced / 1949: 45 rpm discs are introduced by RCA Victor.

February 2, 1982: Intel intros 80286 processor / 2009: WODS(FM) Boston launches 1,000th HD Radio multicast stream.

February 5, 1916: Alexanderson successfully tests multiple tuned antenna.

February 6, 1929: RCA Victor formed.

February 7, 1915: First train-to-station radio message, Binghamton, NY / 1958: Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) is formed.

February 8, 1996: Telecommunications Act deregulates ownership.

February 9, 1934: FCC grants 500kW license to WLW for W8XO.

February 14, 1946: First ENIAC computer demonstration.

February 17, 1947: VOA begins transmissions to Soviet Union / 1878: Edison receives patent for phonograph.

February 19, 1975: Harris introduces the first solid-state radio transmitter.

February 22, 1857: Heinrich Hertz born in Hamburg, Germany / 1916: Ernst Alexanderson granted US patent for a selective tuning system.

February 23, 1927: President Calvin Coolidge signs Public Law 632, the Radio Act of 1927, to create the Federal Radio Commission.

February 24, 1942: VOA begins operations from New York City.

February 26, 1934: President Roosevelt urges Congress to create the Federal Communications Commission.

CALENDAR

February 2, 2019 - Hoosick Falls ARA Hamfest, Hoosick Falls High School, Rt. 22, Hoosick Falls, NY - 8 am - 2 pm.

February 13, 2019 - EGARA Membership Meeting, Masonic Temple @ 7 pm.

May 11, 2019 - Annual EGARA Hamfest, East Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department - 8 am to 1 pm.

Pro Tip: LEDs

Unlike a standard incandescent light bulb, LEDs are *polarity sensitive*. That is, they only operate properly when they are correctly fed with the anode connected to a positive voltage and the cathode to the negative side.

But how do you tell which is which?

The answer is that the bigger part of led is usually the cathode and smaller is the anode.



When soldering LEDs, it's also a good idea to use a heat sink to protect them from damage. Alligator clips work well for this job.



For Sale

Arrow Model 52-S4 - 4-Element 6 Meter Yagi antenna in good condition. \$75.00 See: <http://www.arrowantennas.com/solid/52-4s.html> for details.

MFJ Model 989C Antenna Tuner - legal limit, very little use, in immaculate condition. \$225.00 -- Originally sold for \$359.00 See: <https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamtune/1332c.html>

For above, contact Steve at: svansick@nycap.rr.com

MFJ-464 Morse Code Reader/Sender - Sends and Reads 5-99 WPM, Large 2-line LCD shows send/receive messages, single or Iambic paddle or computer keyboard operation (*keyboard included*). volume controls, 4 message memories, Adjustable Weight and Sidetone, Speaker, RFI Proof. New condition. List is \$199.99. Sell \$149.00.

Kenwood TS-690S Transceiver - Excellent condition - Covers 160 to 6 meters, all modes, 100 watts. Comes with manual, power cord, microphone. Outstanding performance and audio. One of Kenwood's best. \$500.00.

For above, contact Bryan at W2RBJ@outlook.com

Speco Dual Trace Scope, FS-4820, 20 Mhz: New probe kit. \$50.00.. Good clean condition.

RCA Senior Volt Ohmyst WV98C: Oldie but Goodie, Volt Meter. \$45.00. Will entertain offers.

UHF Receive Pre Amp: 1 input and 3 outputs, 430 to 490 Mhz. Works well, Don't know specs. \$12.00

Contact: radiowizz@aol.com, John Maddalla, WB2HZT

Looking to Buy, Sell or Swap?
Send your info to W2RBJ@outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.